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Students finding roles in global strategies

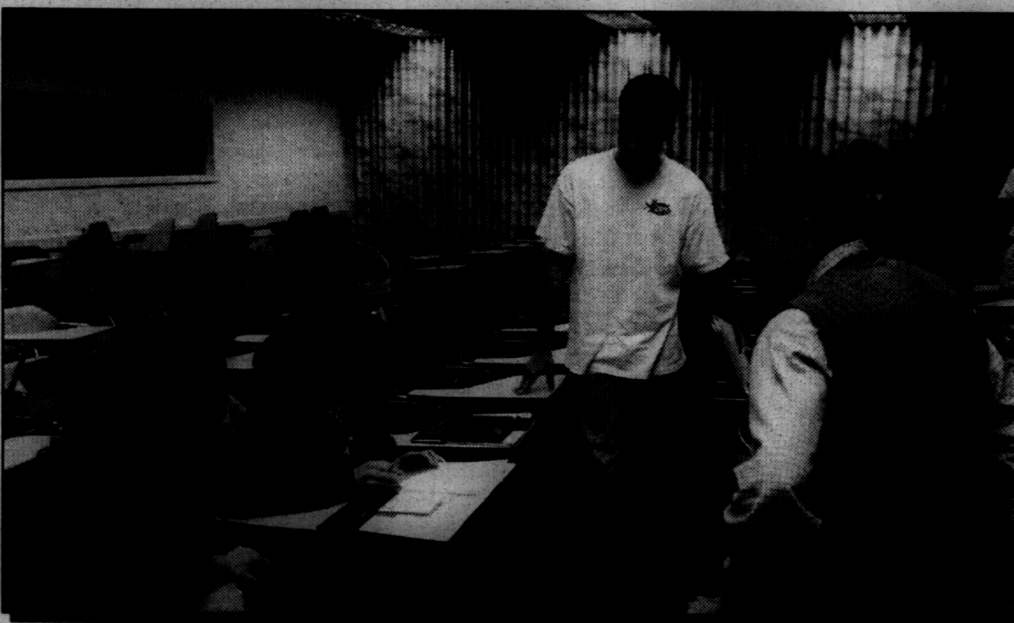
BATTLE, England (BP) — They were just foreign students with backpacks, not a threat of any kind, the soldiers in a Last Frontier country thought — but these particular American college students were Southern Baptists on mission sharing their faith in Christ with university students. They risked harassment and even arrest to hold long witnessing dialogues and pass out Christian materials before heading back to the U.S.

They went home with greater faith, and they had done something long-term missionaries could not risk.

Increasingly such scenes are taking place around the world as more and more Southern Baptist students head overseas on short-term missions trips — and missionaries and administrators are delighted with the results.

That was the gist of a four-day meeting in southern England during early May as student workers from five states met with more than three dozen International Mission Board workers from Europe, Asia, the Middle East, and North Africa.

The idea was to mobilize the campus ministers so they will in turn mobilize their students for overseas missions, said



ON THEIR WAY — These students were among 43 oriented for summer missionary service May 14-16 at the IMB's Missionary Learning Center in Rockville, Va. The board will send out more than 1,000 students this summer, 10 times the number sent out only 10 years ago. (BP photo by Warren Johnson)

Mike Lopez, who coordinates the International Mission Board (IMB) enlistment and mobilization of college and seminary students for overseas missions.

"College students are not just responding to the overwhelming needs in the world, but they're also responding to what God is doing on the field," Lopez said. "They see how God is working in areas of the world and they want to be a part of that."

Ten years ago the board sent just 100 or so students overseas; in 1999 that number will be well over 1,000, he said. As of May, more than 300 requests

for students overseas remained unfilled. About 1,000 students have gone to China alone in recent years.

The board has adopted a "whatever it takes" approach to enlisting college students for overseas assignments, said Lopez, a former missionary to Taiwan.

Southern Baptists must adopt a similar attitude about missions financing to make more student missions ventures possible, Lopez said.

"It takes a lot of creativity and 'coloring outside the lines,' but we want to do whatever it takes to involve students in overseas missions so they will come back in the future as missionaries," he added.

Missionaries agree experi-

ence in missions makes young people more sensitive to God's leadership in missions careers. Missionaries also value the role students can play in missions strategies, both in accessible countries like those in Europe and more restricted ones in Last Frontier areas.

The board has sent Southern Baptist campus workers to 18 countries since 1996.

Taking students overseas makes a major impact on their lives, Lopez said.

"When we get them out of the country, one of every two students comes back and makes a commitment either to church vocations or to missions full time," he said. "Since we're in the business of life change and leadership

development, that's what we're most concerned about. We're using a greater percentage of our budget towards international missions."

Workers also discussed the problems that can develop even on short-term missions trips, such as when students want to spend their money on expensive fast food instead of more basic items.

The consensus was that such minor problems are worth the vast payback that occurs from involving students in missions.

College and seminary students wanting more information on overseas opportunities can visit the International Mission Board's Internet website at www.imb.org/students or call toll-free (800) 789-4693.

Strategic cities selected

ALPHARETTA, Ga. (BP) — The announcement of Seattle and Philadelphia as Strategic Focus Cities for 2002 is the beginning of a multi-year process that promises to impact millions of lives with the gospel like never before, according to state and local leaders working on the project. The announcement came during the North American Mission Board's (NAMB) annual report to Southern Baptist Convention messengers June 1.

Under the Strategic Focus Cities (SFC) initiative, the resources of Southern Baptists nationwide will be directed each year toward massive evangelism and church-starting efforts in two of 17 major cities. Chicago and Phoenix have been chosen for the inaugural efforts next year, and Las Vegas and Boston for 2001.

C. Don Beall, director of missions for the Puget Sound Association that includes Seattle, said their priority has been and will continue to be on seeking God's will for how best to reach the city. "We also have tried to communicate and inform the pastors, staff, and laypeople in our churches about what this will entail, and that we will be committed to really gearing up for more than what we are used to in terms of evangelism and discipleship," he said.

Individuals or groups seeking information on volunteer opportunities during 2000, the first year of Strategic Focus Cities, may contact Kimily Waldron in Phoenix at (888) 758-7753, and Danny Hester in Chicago at (800) 645-2412.

WHAT'S IN THE RECORD

Panter takes new post

Fires hit coast churches

Vols' work priceless

CML conference set

Looking back

10 years ago

James W. Edwards is named interim president of William Carey College (WCC) in Hattiesburg. Edwards was hired a month ago as WCC's temporary financial administrator after being retained by the Mississippi Baptist Education Commission to aid in their investigation of the school.

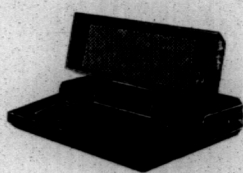
20 years ago

Colonial Heights Church, Jackson, occupies their new 1,200-seat auditorium. A special God and Country service is held, featuring music by minister of music Don Bennett as well as youth and adult choirs; a testimony by Jackson Mayor Dale Danks; and a message by pastor Len Turner.

50 years ago

The largest Vacation Bible School in the history of First Church, Hazlehurst, is held June 3-19 under the direction of Mrs. Rowe C. Holcomb, principal. Enrollment reaches 274, with 151 receiving diplomas for perfect attendance.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



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Safeguarding our most important message

The 1999 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention June 15-16 in the Georgia Dome in Atlanta has been noted among other things for its quiet tone and lack of internecine strategizing.

As chronicled on the pages of this newspaper for two weeks, the somewhat sparsely-attended meeting will be remembered for the introduction of a number of new evangelism and missions programs with the goal of bringing a lost world to salvation in Jesus Christ.

At the dawn of a new millennium, that's the image Southern Baptists should be transmitting to a lost world — sharp focus on Jesus, unbridled enthusiasm in sharing our faith, and implacable determination to sacrificially support the cause.

If our mission was a modern public relations campaign, sending such a clear and unmistakable message would go a long way toward convincing a skeptical populace that we really believe in our "product." Of course, our mission is infinitely more important than a public relations campaign and eternal salvation through Jesus Christ is not a product, but some of the same principles apply.

It is therefore regrettable when some other, often minor, element clouds that message and creates confusion about what our goals really are and whether we are serious about accomplishing those goals.

Such has become the case with our resolutions and motions systems, which are presently so clunky and politically slanted that most lost folks must have a mighty skewed picture of just who we Southern Baptists are and for what we stand.

Is our mission centered on one-on-one witnessing to those who have never heard the Good News, or is our mission to force the Disney Corporation to its knees? Is our mission to share the faith with every human being on the planet before the end of this

year (Bold Mission Thrust), or is our mission to convince wives to "graciously submit" to their husbands?

Cary McMullan, who grew up Southern Baptist and has covered the convention for three years for New York Times-owned newspapers, said during this year's meeting, "Anytime you have a group this large, you'll have some that draw attention to themselves, their pet causes, or just generally be outrageous. Some Southern Baptist leaders make deliberate efforts to make statements that will attract attention, and they do so in a flamboyant way."

On the state level, a motion was introduced by a messenger to last fall's Mississippi Baptist Convention that would have disfellowshipped U.S. President Bill Clinton from the state convention. Although the proposal was flawed and died quickly, it dominated news coverage for the remainder of the state convention — to the exclusion of all the positive news that could have been reported on what Mississippi Baptists are doing to help bring Mississippi and the world to Jesus.

Granted, we can't control what the secular news media report about us, but we should be able to control ourselves at least to the extent that our main message is not lost in the white noise generated by the annual tidal wave of resolutions and motions.

This is not a call to do away with motions and resolutions, which play important roles in our denominational governance. However, it is time we revamped both these systems — on the



state convention level as well as the national level — to safeguard our most important message from being completely swamped by the arcane.

That most important message is this: God loved us so much that he sent his only Son to save us from a richly-deserved eternity in Hell (John 3:16); that Jesus Christ is the only Way to the Father (John 14:6); and that his followers' first priority should always be the mission he left for us to finish (Matt. 28:18-20).

The rest, as the saying goes, is just details.

GUEST OPINION:



Citizens of two kingdoms

By Vicki Williams, member
First Church, Clinton

It's not hard to see God's hand in the birth and growth of this nation. Certainly he has shed his grace on America, but is it possible that he has begun to lift his grace from America?

In the books, *The Light and the Glory*, and *From Sea to Shining Sea*, authors Peter Marshall and David Manuel trace God's hand in the history of our land.

Throughout our history there have been times of falling away and times of great revival. It would seem that like the Israelites we forget God during times of peace and prosperity, only to fall on our knees before him when disaster falls.

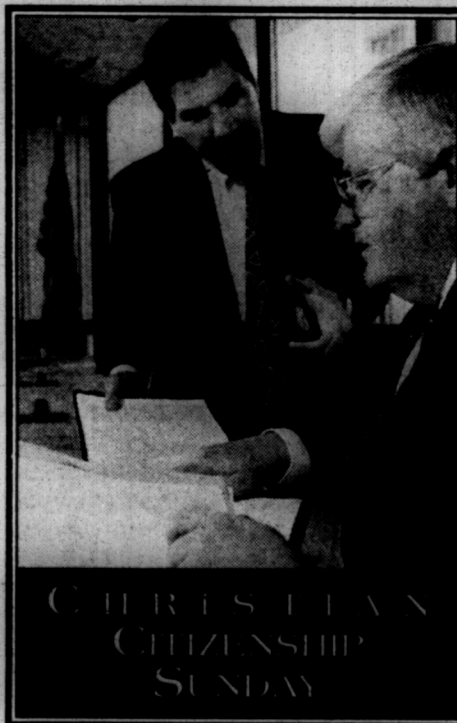
Marshall and Manuel document times when it seemed that Darkness was on the verge of extinguishing the Light, and then the Holy Spirit would strike like lightning in sleepy congregations causing the gospel of Jesus Christ to spread like wildfire. Changed people then changed the world around them.

America is a prosperous nation at peace, but where are we spiritually? I used to read everything I could on World War II and Nazi Germany, trying to convince myself that

what happened there could not happen here.

The birthplace of the Reformation eventually gave way to one of the most evil regimes of our time. Where was the German church? What happened there could most certainly happen here, but it doesn't have to.

Jesus calls his people to



be salt and light — to be in the world and not of it. What does he expect of us as citizens of two kingdoms?

- ◆ To repent.
- ◆ To pray for our leaders.

- ◆ To educate ourselves on moral and religious liberty issues.
- ◆ To vote.

- ◆ To educate our churches.
- ◆ If God leads, run for public office.

U.S. President James Garfield said, "Now, more than ever before the people are responsible for the character of their Congress. If that body be ignorant, reckless, and corrupt, it is because the people tolerate ignorance, recklessness, and corruption. If it be intelligent, brave, and pure, it is because the people demand these high qualities to represent them in the national legislature."

If this statement is true for Congress, then it is equally true for the president and through him the U.S. Supreme Court. We truly get what we deserve.

As important as it is to elect Godly people to public office, that in itself will not turn our nation around. Only revival will accomplish this and it will surely begin not at the top, but at the bottom with us.

Revival will not begin without the repentance and prayers of God's people. The way of the Cross self-denial. Are you willing to stand in the gap before God lifts his grace from our land? America, America, God shed His grace on thee . . .

Williams is a trustee on the board of the Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission.

'Year To Kare' theme for 1999 Youth Evang. Conf.

By Carl M. White
Associate Editor

The change from 1999 to 2000 on this New Year's Eve is a once-in-a-lifetime event — and Don Lum, youth consultant in the Evangelism Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, knows youth leaders in churches across the state are looking to plan some kind of special event.

Lum is sure that for many churches the perfect answer is the 1999 Youth Evangelism Conference (YEC) in A.E. Wood Coliseum on the campus of Mississippi College.

The event is scheduled to begin at 1 p.m. on Dec. 31 and

conclude at 12:01 a.m. on Jan. 1. The theme for the 1999 event is "Year to Kare," or Y2K, Lum said. The cost is \$5 per person.

While YEC is an annual fixture on the denominational calendar, the Y2K (Year 2000) event makes this conference unlike any before, Lum indicated.

"YEC is normally a two-day event, but this year the planning committee has arranged three sessions all in one day," he said.

"This is a one time event," Lum said. "It has never been

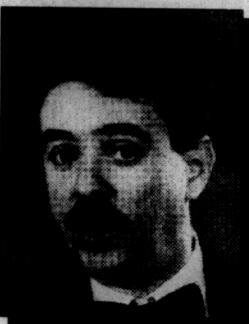
like this before, and will never be like this again."

Registration will open at 11 a.m. on Dec. 31 at the coliseum. The first session will focus on evangelism and will run from 1-4 p.m. Featured speaker is Danny Lanier, a vocational evangelist from Little Rock (Miss.).

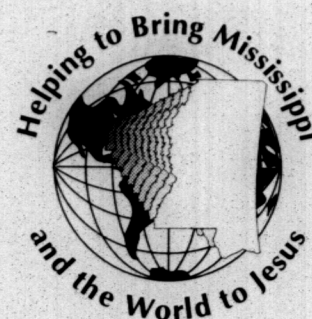
The second session, from 6:30-9 p.m., focuses on the call to ministry. Featured speaker is Scott Crenshaw, a vocational evangelist from Houston, Tex.

The third session, from 9:45 p.m.-12:01 a.m., focuses on prayer. Featured speaker is Jim Futral, executive director of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board in Jackson.

Other program personalities are: Kevin Williams of Clinton, worship leader; Matt Fore of Hendersonville, N.C., and the Magical Comedy Show; and Dallas-based ventriloquist Dennis Lee and the Nanna Puddin' Gang.



Fore



THE
SECOND
FRONT PAGE

No BR on July 8

Due to U.S. Postal Service regulations limiting publication of The Baptist Record to 50 issues per year, there will be no issue on Thursday, July 8. Publication will resume on July 15. News items to appear in the July 15 issue must be received by July 8. Churches which use the "special page" feature must ensure those items arrive at Cain Lithographeers no later than noon on July 13.

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Missionary in Africa convicted, released

MASERU, Lesotho (BP and local) — A Southern Baptist missionary charged and convicted in a fatal car accident and his wife are now free to leave the southern Africa nation of Lesotho after a hearing before a local judge in the capital city of that country.

Gene Phillips, an emeritus Southern Baptist missionary serving a volunteer term in Morija, Lesotho, was charged with culpable homicide in a June 2 traffic accident in which a pedestrian was killed.

Phillips' wife Jean was in the vehicle with her husband at the time of the accident.

In a hearing June 18, a judge in Maseru, the capital city, found Gene Phillips guilty of a lesser charge of negligence and gave him a suspended sentence of a \$32 fine or 12 months in jail.

The judge freed Phillips and his wife to leave the country and return to the U.S., which they were planning to do some time after June 28 as packing, travel plans, and other details were firmed up.

The Phillipses were traveling from Morija, where they were stationed, to Maseru on the night of June 2 when a man suddenly walked into the middle of the road.

Although Phillips swerved to miss him, the driver's-side mirror on the car hit the pedestrian.

Phillips stopped his car immediately after the accident, but a hostile crowd quickly gathered and began banging on the vehicle.

Realizing they were in danger, the Phillipses drove to a local police station to report the accident to authorities.

They returned to the scene with police only to find that the man had been taken from the road to a hospital.

The pedestrian, who was not identified

in news reports, eventually died from the injuries he received when he walked into the path of Phillips' vehicle.

Despite the fact that this was an accident, Phillips was charged with culpable homicide by the local magistrate's office and released on bond.

A June 15 trial date was set, but the hearing was eventually delayed until June 18.

The incident was the second time in less than six months that tragedy has struck the Phillipses since they returned to the mission field.

On Jan. 31 of this year, the couple was robbed and kidnapped at gunpoint.

The thieves drove the couple into an isolated area in the mountains and repeatedly threatened to kill them.

Eventually, the couple was left on the side of the road, alive and unharmed.

The four thieves who allegedly took part in the kidnapping were caught, but all have recently been released on bail.

Rumors that the suspected kidnappers were boasting about their crime caused the American couple to leave their home in Morija and drive to Maseru to seek a more secured area.

They were on their way to the capital city when the accident occurred.

The Phillipses, from Woodruff, S.C., and Greensboro, N.C., respectively, were appointed as missionaries to Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) in 1956.

They served through a period of strife and revolution in that African country that eventually resulted in the country's independence from the United Kingdom in 1980.

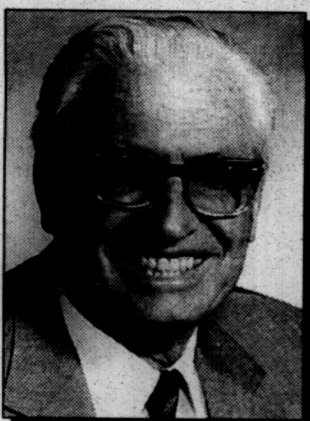
They retired in 1996 and began the

Lesotho assignment in discipleship and leadership training through the International Mission Board's International Service Corps program in December.

The plight of the Phillipses mirrors a number of incidents over the years in which Southern Baptist missionaries, travelling along roads and highways which are used heavily by mostly pedestrian local populations, have been involved in both fatal and non-fatal accidents.

At least one similar case is currently working its way through the court system of another African nation.

No information was available on the Phillipses' plans once they return to the U.S.



G. Phillips



J. Phillips

Panter named associate director at International Mission Board

RICHMOND, Va. (Special) — Southern Baptist missionary Dan Panter recently was named as an associate director of International Mission Board (IMB) work in southeast Asia and Oceania, a region that includes countries such as Australia, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand.

Panter will be based in the IMB's Richmond, Va., headquarters. He replaces John Ingouf, who retired in June after 28 years of missionary service in Indonesia and 10 years as an associate in Richmond.

Appointed to Togo in 1976, Panter served in that west African region until 1991. After transferring to eastern Europe, he began planting churches in the Republic of Belarus.

Panter was named as an associate to



D. Panter



L. Panter

the European area director in 1993 and moved to Weisbaden, Germany.

After five years of service there, he transferred to Indochina, where he served until moving to Richmond in the spring of this year.

A native of Mississippi, Panter pastored churches in his home state as well as in Louisiana before moving overseas.

As member of the U.S. Army, he also served as chaplain in the Naval Reserves for two years.

Panter received his bachelor's degree from Mississippi College in Clinton, and his master's and doctoral degrees from New Orleans Seminary in New Orleans.

He and his wife, Libby, have three children.

Jackson County churches hit by separate fires

Fire claimed the educational buildings of two Jackson Association churches in less than a week, according to Ernie Sadler, Jackson Association director of missions.

The educational building at Belle Fountain Church near Ocean Springs burned at about midnight on June 9, according to pastor Mark Shelnett.

The fire was apparently electrical in origin. "We lost everything but our sanctuary," Shelnett said.

The loss is estimated at around \$500,000, and Shelnett said insurance will cover only about 40%.

"There is a lot of sadness at the loss of the building, but we have had people and churches come to help us," Shelnett said.

"This is actually drawn us closer together," he added.

At Parkway Church, Pascagoula, the educational wing burned on the afternoon of June 14. Church treasurer James Howard said 60-65% of the building was destroyed. The insurance company has not yet placed a dollar figure on the loss, he said.

The fire was likely caused by a welding tack added to a metal door that was not staying completely closed. Apparently, something flammable was behind one of the welds and three or four hours later it began burning, Howard indicated.

Parkway pastor Jack House said the building will basically have to be gutted. "I think this (fire) has helped us pull together," he said.

"It has awakened a lot of folks that nothing is permanent, that God can allow anything to be taken away.

"We are sad because of the building, but we are excited about the possibilities that will come out of this. I think in the end God will wind up getting the glory," he said.

For information on how to help either church, contact Sadler at (228) 769-7101.

Sadler reelected as national DOM leader

By Russell N. Dilday, associate editor
The Arkansas Baptist

ATLANTA (Special and local) — Ernie Sadler, director of missions (DOM) for Jackson Association on the Mississippi Gulf Coast, was reelected secretary of the Southern Baptist Conference of Associational Directors of Missions at the group's annual meeting June 13-14 in Atlanta, held just prior to the start of the 1999 Southern Baptist Convention.

The DOMs also heard Rick Warren, pastor of Saddleback Community Church in Mission Viejo, Calif. — a church that has started 30 new congregations in 20 years — discuss the starting of new churches.

Association President Ed Gilman, DOM for Sun Coast Association in Florida, also addressed the future with a message on "Associational Leadership for the Next Millennium."

Comparing the "predictable" themes and story lines from the Star Trek television series to the millennium, Gilman told the group that "life is not always predictable or simple. My question for us is, 'Are you ready to boldly go where no one has gone before?' You'd better be ready, because it's only six months away. Will you be more likely to say, 'Warp speed ahead' or 'Beam me up, Jesus?'"

Using the word "leaders" as an

acronym, he gave seven "core leadership principles that we cannot do without" to take Christian leaders into the next century.

The core leadership principles cited by Gilman include:

- Love God and love others. "Jesus told us the most important thing in life is to love God and love our neighbor," Gilman said, asking, "What does it mean for a director of missions when we talk about love? It is called servant leadership. When the association no longer serves, it loses its reason for existence."

- Embody pure ethics and morals. "Ministers today, in the eyes of John Q. Public, have lost a lot of credibility," he claimed. "What value system do directors of missions live by today? As DOMs, we're called to a higher value system given to us in Scripture. We should be setting the example for the ethical and moral lifestyle ... and lead that life before others."

- Always give your best. "You are a manager, minister, and missions strategist," Gilman said. "One thing we have in common is that we can give our absolute best with what God has given us."

- Develop and empower your team. "You have to believe in teamship because

(associational leadership) is too big for one person," he said. "The key to developing and empowering the team is prayer."

- Envision God's preferred future. "It's our role to help determine God's vision for our associations," Gilman emphasized. "We need to get God's vision and carry that out."

- Respond to challenges with courage, he said, adding, "Being a risk-taker is part of being a leader."

- Spend quality time with your family.

During the group's Monday business session, members adopted a 1999-2000 budget of \$20,700, a decrease of approximately \$3,900 over the 1998-99 budget.

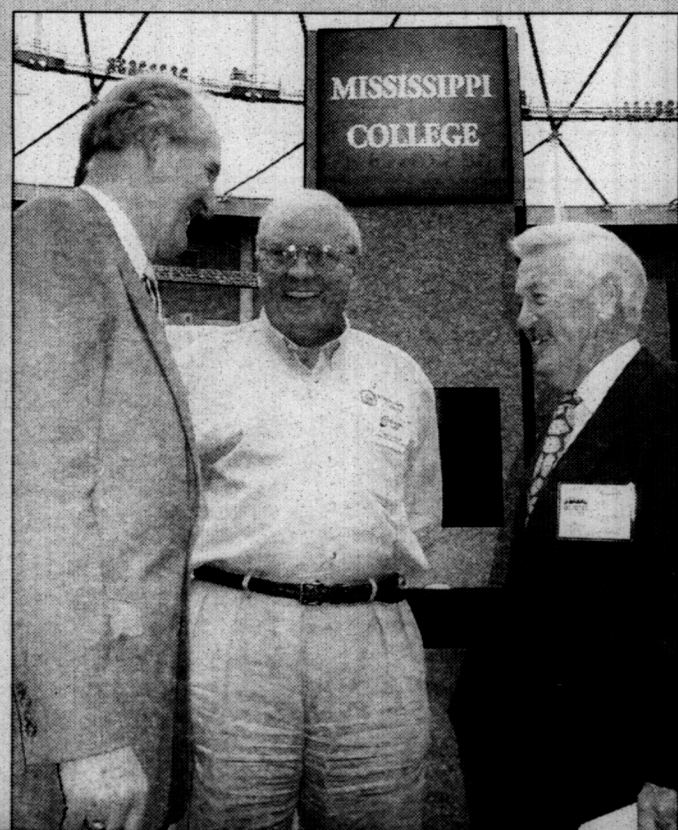
In addition to Sadler, the DOMs elected Edward Copeland, director of missions for the Metro Columbus (Ohio) Association, as president. Also elected as 1999-2000 officers were Don Beall of Puget Sound Baptist Association in Washington, first vice president; Gary Hearon of Dallas (Texas) Baptist Association, second vice president; T.O. Spicer of Spring River Baptist Association in Missouri, editor of the conference's newsletter; and James Fortinberry of Greater Orlando (Florida) Baptist Association, host director for the group's 2000 annual meeting.

Mississippi Baptist colleges stand out at SBC



Blue Mountain College display

Blue Mountain College admissions counselor Melissa Jarrell (top photo, right) and Ronald Meeks, head of the Bible department at the Baptist-affiliated school in Blue Mountain, make a final check of material to be distributed at the college's display during the 1999 Southern Baptist Convention in the Georgia Dome in Atlanta. At the William Carey College display, Byron Day (bottom photo, left), pastor of Emmanuel Church in Laurel, Md., talks with Daniel Caldwell, dean of missions and biblical studies on the school's Hattiesburg campus. Mississippi Baptists recently entered into a partnership missions agreement with the Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware. Underneath the video kiosk at the Mississippi College display, Harold Bryson (top right photo, middle), professor of Bible in the Christian studies and philosophy department and director of the Institute for Christian Leadership at the Clinton school, shares a laugh with Ken Lyle (left), executive director of the Baptist Convention of New England, and Robert Hamblin, former vice-president for evangelism at the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board (now North American Mission Board). Hamblin is a former president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, and served as pastor of Harrisburg Church, Tupelo. (Photos by William H. Perkins Jr.)



Mississippi College display



William Carey College display

Volunteer seniors create priceless ministries

By Tim Nicholas
MBCB Communications Director

"I'll do just about anything — except hammer," said Betty Barber, senior adult volunteer working with her husband at Gulfshore Assembly in Pass Christian. Betty's husband

Alton hammers (and paints and repairs and cleans), so the retired Campers on Mission couple will do anything.

The Barbers' outlook can be multiplied many-fold in the hearts of hundreds of Mississippi Baptist senior citizens. Glenn Shows, consultant for senior adult work in the Discipleship and Family Ministry Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, agrees that seniors are a yet-to-be-fully-tapped resource.

Dan West, manager at Central Hills Retreat near Kosciusko, has been using seniors at the Royal Ambassadors campground since 1986.

"We would not be able to operate without them. They help us in the office and handicraft shop. They operate our souvenir and snack shop and do maintenance work — grounds, building, and automotive. They run errands. They set the spiritual tone with our staff especially," he pointed out.

West said senior adults, mainly from the Campers on Mission organization, last year completed work on a recreational vehicle park and a rally building.

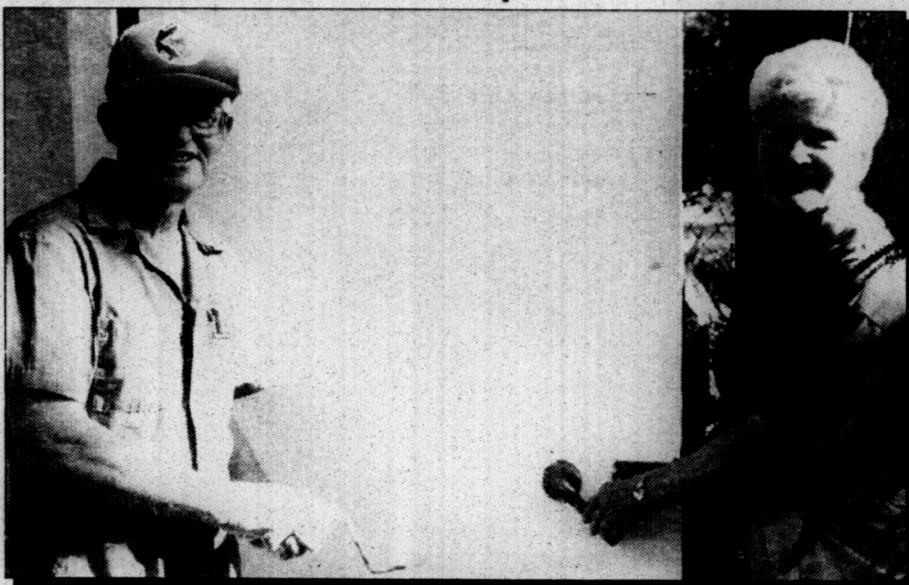
Thus far, said West, a total of 372 individuals have worked on two new lodges at the retreat facility. The lodges are enabling the camping program to move the campers from tents to air-conditioned sleeping quarters.

The Barbers, members of First Church, Newton, responded to Gulfshore Assembly manager Frank Simmons' plea through Mississippi Campers on Mission for volunteer help at the state Baptist campground. The couple plans to make presentations to churches to challenge senior adults for ministry.

Another couple who responded to Simmons' interest in recruiting volunteers are Lutherans Charlie and Carol Lowe. Their grandson is enrolled in a preschool program at First Church, Gulfport, where Simmons is a member.

While at Gulfshore, Charlie painted doors, repaired light fixtures, and helped do wiring in the shop — all with a broken foot.

They believe more and more senior adults will be volunteering "as more of us get to retirement age and don't want to retire," said Carol.



The Barbers

The Lowes' "wake up call" came a few years ago when Charlie had some serious health problems. The problems were solved but the couple realized "life doesn't go on forever," Carol said.

They sold their house, gave their kids the furniture, and bought a travel trailer. After Charlie retired in January of this year, they began their mission service on a more or less full time basis.

"We've always felt you're supposed to help others," Carol said.

Alton Barber agreed. "The greatest blessings of life come in doing things for others for the Lord."

Senior vols enjoy variety of opportunities

Senior adults who wish to consider missions opportunities have a number of resources at hand. In Mississippi, seniors can contact the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) Men's Ministry Department, for information on joining Campers on Mission or construction project ministries, at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone (601) 292-3335 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

Glenn Shows, consultant for senior adult work in the MBCB Discipleship and Family Ministry Department, is happy to talk with seniors concerning volunteer interests. He can be reached at the address and telephone numbers listed above. Shows said he has a "ton of resources."

Shows also noted that seniors' home churches and local associations always need volunteers — from teaching Sunday School to tutoring.

The Mississippi Baptist Volunteers in Ministry coordinator is Sidney Pitts. His telephone number is (601) 878-6607. Pitts can help potential volunteers connect with projects lasting from one day to months or years.

To volunteer at Gulfshore Assembly, contact manager Frank Simmons at 100 First Street, Pass Christian, MS 39571. Telephone: (228) 452-7261.

To volunteer at Central Hills Retreat, contact manager Dan West at P.O. Box 1278, Kosciusko, MS 39090. Telephone: (601) 289-9730.

A CHICKEN'S FOOT

I was driving down the highway when an 18-wheeler came up alongside and to the right of my car. We were going just about the same speed, so we were traveling down the highway side-by-side for a while. I glanced out of my right window and saw, on the lower part of the side of the truck, what appeared to be two huge "chicken" feet. I could hardly believe my eyes, for there only an arm's length away from my window were monstrous feet — monstrous "chicken feet!" Immediately I



Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

assumed that the truck belonged to some big chicken processing company and I further assumed that the rest of the chicken would be on top of the feet. They were the biggest chicken legs I had ever seen!

The truck began to pick up speed, easing on up the road ahead of me, and on its side I saw a huge painting of a tree. I looked in my rearview mirror and then looked ahead, wondering where the "chicken" truck went! As I looked at the trunk of that painted-on tree, and looked at the root system

that was reaching down, I saw my "chicken feet!" They were not chicken feet at all. I now recognized that it was an elaborate trunk of a beautiful tree. Quietly I listened and the scene spoke, reminding me how dangerous it is to act on partial information. What I knew to be true was not true at all when I saw the whole picture.

Jumping to conclusions is not an aerobic exercise, but it is one of the favorite tools of gossips and talebearers. Before the truck passes they will tell ten people about the "chicken feet"

and know that they know all there is to know about what they know!

The picture again spoke, reminding me that while you cannot believe everything you hear, you also have to be careful about what you see. I remember an incident over a quarter century ago, where several pastors were discussing how terrible it was that a preacher friend had come to the Convention and was going out with "some woman!" They were discussing what should be done. These men knew the preacher and his wife, and here he was going out with another woman! Righteousness demanded that they do something.

What they did not know was that he had a grown daughter who was a student at a nearby college, and she had come to the Convention to pick up and take her father to dinner.

Sometimes righteousness demands that we get all the facts; see beyond what we think we see; and wait until we get a view of the whole picture. I suppose that had some of us been at Golgotha we would have seen a torn body, a dying man, a mangled Messiah, and concluded that nothing of value could come out of this.

Thank God we would have been wrong, and thank him again, that even today, through faith, he can change our warped and distorted view of life.

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JUST FOR THE RECORD



NOBTS graduates

Miss. WMU to hold training conferences

Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) will hold church leadership training conferences July 26-29 at Camp Garaywa in Clinton. Age-level and Special Interest conferences will be available. No registration fee is required. Light refreshments will be served. For more information, contact WMU consultant Tammy Anderson at (601) 292-3323 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

Conferences times are:

July 26 — 6-8:30 p.m.
July 27 — 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.;
6-8:30 p.m.
July 28 — 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
July 29 — 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Homecomings

First, Richland: July 10-11; Saturday, family picnic, 11 a.m.; Sunday, evening worship service, 6 p.m.; Buster Wilson, guest evangelist; Steve Tadlock, worship leader; Chuck Herring, pastor.

Paynes, Charleston: July 11; 115th anniversary; worship, 11 a.m.; Jerry Bingham, former pastor, speaker; lunch in the Family Life Center followed by afternoon singing.

The Celebration of Excellence Ceremony for graduates was held May 11 at New Orleans Seminary. Awards

received by Mississippi students were Carol McElroy of Laurel, who serves at Briarwood Church, Meridian, Outstanding Student Award from the Baccalaureate Program; Ben Caston of Liberty, minister of music at Roseland Park Church, Picayune, Outstanding Student Award from the Master of Church Music Program; William Earl (Billy) James of Laurel, pastor of Holly Springs Church, Foxworth, Zondervan Greek Award; Brian Rushing of Jackson, minister of youth at First Church, Bay St. Louis, Outstanding Student Award for the Master of Arts in Christian Education Program; and William Boren of Meridian, Outstanding Student Award for the Master of Divinity Program. Daniel Vickery (not pictured) of

Columbus, Outstanding Future Ministers Award. Pictured are Elroy (middle of second row); Caston (third row, second from

left); James (third row, third from right); Rushing (top row, far left); and William Boren (middle of top row).



New Home Church, Smith County, held a note burning ceremony celebrating the "pay-off" of its fellowship hall on April 18. After the morning message, lunch was served followed by the ceremony. Pictured are Billy Ray Smith, pastor, and James Ford, chairman of the building committee; deacons; the finance committee; and the building committee.

Church Media Library Conf. slated for July 29-31

The Church Media Library (CML) Conference is slated for Gulfshore Assembly in Pass Christian on July 29-31.

The conference will be held during the 1999 Growing Churches Through Discipleship conference.

Hope Winter, media library director at Temple Church in Ruston, La., and approved worker for the Church Media Program with Lifeway Christian Resources in Nashville, will lead workshops titled:

• **Y2K: Opportunities for church media libraries,** which will include a rethinking of the sources and resources a media center can provide a church. This conference will look at the redesign, relocation, reallocation, redirection, and security of your media center to sources around the world.

• **Creating promotion that communicates.** Participants will

discover the basics of good design and how your message can be communicated more effectively. Conferees will receive helpful tips for using design elements such as color, space, and balance to enhance presentations.

Beth Hensley, media center director at First Church, Broken Arrow, Okla., and president of the Oklahoma CML Organization, will lead the following workshops:

• **Choosing Sears subject headings.** Being able to find media when someone needs it is a much easier task with appropriate subject headings in the catalog. Correctly using the authority for subject headings in a small library, The Sears List of



Hensley



Winter

Subject Headings can make the library much more professional.

• **Classification systems for church libraries.** A call number gives a title a specific location in the library. Explore how to select a Dewey number, complete the call number, and apply it to any type of media.

Workers are urged to make reservations immediately with Gulfshore Assembly by con-

tacting manager Frank Simmons. Telephone: (228) 452-7261. MasterCard and VISA are accepted for reservations and bill payment.

For conference information, contact Farrell Blankenship, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, at P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800, or toll-free outside of Jackson (800) 748-1651.

CLASSIFIED ADS

RATE: 50 cents per word, \$5 minimum. Cash with order except on contract advertising. Include name, address, zip code, and phone number in word count. No blind ads. **ONLY WRITTEN ADS ACCEPTED.**

ATTENTION: committed couples to work full-time with "at-risk" children in residential setting. Opportunities throughout Alabama. Minimum HS diploma. Benefits include BC/BS PMD, TDA, life insurance, sick leave, vacation, living expenses. Call 1-800-548-4256 or write to Box 240009 Montgomery, AL 36124-0009.

CUSTOM STAINED GLASS windows for churches and homes. Stained Glassworks, Inc. 1-800-605-2970.

WE SPECIALIZE IN VANS Featuring 6 to 15 passenger vans, customized and panel vans. Daily and weekly rates. Auto & Truck Rental, Jackson (601) 948-3391. Since 1965.

BRANSON, MO CONDO sleeps 6. Stay 3 nights; 4th night free or stay 5 nights and 2 nights free. Free in house coffee and tea. Free dinner tickets for stays on birthdays or anniversaries, \$100.00 daily. Register for free return trip and 3 king quilts. 601-746-4632.

GREAT DEAL! GREAT PRICE! 2 - 1998 Supreme President 32 passenger coaches. Cummins B5.9 with AT545. Highback reclining seats. Never been sold, approximately 2,500 - 3,500 demonstration miles. \$77,020.00 each. Call Harry @ 1-800-367-9463.

ALASKA CRUISE WITH DR. CHARLES STANLEY for July 11-18, 2000. Deadline August 1, 1999. Call Rev. Jon Nichols at (601) 939-2975 for details.

FERRIDAY FIRST CHURCH IS SEEKING full-time minister of youth/education; send resumes to: First Baptist Church, Attn: Search Committee, P.O. Box 386, Ferriday, LA 71334.

ATTENTION CHURCHES: used Bibles any condition are needed by churches and missionaries overseas. Contact: Share the Word, 706 Turner Street, Waynesboro, MS 39367 or call 601-671-8662.

FLORIDA BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOME — Tallahassee needs a husband-wife team to be primary residential staff for the girls home. Excellent salary/benefits. Work for 2 weeks on duty, 1 week off. Come minister in the lives of children! Call Pam at 1-850-878-1458.

GROUPS - CALL KELLER'S COUNTRY DORM RESORT, Eureka Springs, Ark, for front seats at The Great Passion Play, plus lodging, recreation, and meals, all for just \$35.00 each! Free information - 501-253-8418.

CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH OF Tuscaloosa, Alabama is currently seeking for a Minister of Preschool/Children to lead a fully developed children's ministry. Calvary is located adjacent to the University of Alabama. Seminary degree is preferred. Experience is preferred. Please send resume to Preschool/Children Search Committee, Calvary Baptist Church, 1121 Paul W. Bryant Drive, Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35401. (205) 758-0495 for more information.

PARADISE LANES: Mississippi's only smoke and alcohol free Bowling Center. Call about Lock-ins, group rates, fund raisers, and leagues. Located at 820 Cooper Road, Jackson, MS, (601) 372-7700.

YOUTH OUTINGS? Outdoor paintball games! Year-round! 10 years experience. Book yours today! Curry Creek Outdoors, 1161 Old Hwy 49, Seminary, MS 39479, (601) 722-9000.

FOR SALE: 1993 Metrotrams Mini-Bus, 25 passenger - Rear and front A/C - Ford 460 EFT Engine, \$25,000 - Mileage. **CFI - PEWS, NEW & used.** Baptistries, steeples, & stained glass, MS & ALA. 1-800-830-0583.

MS POSITIONS AVAILABLE

BI-VOCATIONAL MINISTER OF MUSIC is needed at Gunter Road Baptist Church. Send resumes to Dick Steadman, 1220 Gunter Road, Florence, MS 39073. Call 601-932-2542 or 601-939-2542.

PART-TIME MINISTER OF MUSIC mail or E-mail resume to: Search Committee, Bethel Baptist Church, 2153 Bethel Road, Liberty, MS 39645 or oakknoll@telepak.net.

FULL-TIME POSITION: Minister of Youth/Music. Send resume to Walker Hill Baptist Church, 1110 Wade Patrick Road, Brandon, MS 39042, ATTN: Fran Kelly.

PART-TIME MINISTER OF YOUTH mail or E-mail resume to: Search Committee, Bethel Baptist Church, 2153 Bethel Road, Liberty, MS 39645 or oakknoll@telepak.net.

PART-TIME MUSIC MINISTER. Sunday is only day of service required. Out-of-town applicants welcomed. Weekend accommodations will be provided. Send resume to: Providence Baptist Church, c/o Nina Taylor, 301 Fayette Davis Avenue, Cleveland, MS 38732.

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What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

July 1, 1999

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Office of Communication.

Sunday School Leadership Training

Two great training opportunities now in two locations

Gulfshore North
September 10-11
Calvary Baptist Church
Tupelo

Special Guests:
David Grumbach
David Prevost
Blue Mountain BSU Drama Team

For information
contact the Sunday School Department, MBCB
601-968-3800 or 1-800-748-1651

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AUGUST 20-21

- **PRESCHOOL**
- **CHILDREN**
- **YOUTH**

COST: \$5
NO REGISTRATION
REQUIRED



COORDINATOR
Anita Wagoner
Children's Writer and Editor
Church Music—LifeWay Christian Resources
Nashville, Tenn.



PRESCHOOL
Sandy Stephenson
Choir Coordinator and
Preschool Writer and Director
The Church at Brook Hill, Birmingham, Ala.



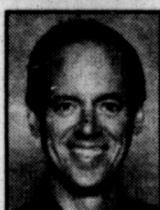
YOUNGER CHILDREN
Linda Dutton
Managing Director for the
Houston Children's Chorus
Houston, Texas



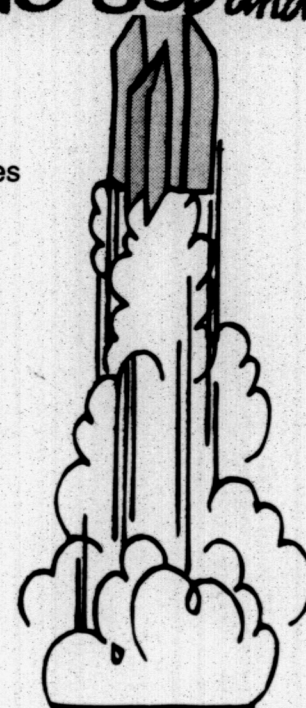
OLDER CHILDREN
Eileen Jones Straw
Clinician, Writer, Editor and
Consultant for Children Choirs
Roswell, Ga.



GRADES 1-6
Clinton Flowers
Minister of Music, FBC
Orangeburg, S.C.



YOUTH
Slater Murphy
Minister of Music
Fairview Baptist Church
Columbus, Ms.



WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, AUGUST 20

6:00 p.m.Registration
6:30Classes
8:00Break
8:30Classes
9:30Adjourn

SATURDAY, AUGUST 21

8:00 a.m.Registration
8:30Classes
10:00Break
10:30Classes
NoonAdjourn

For more information contact the Church Music Dept., MBCB 601-968-3800, 1-800-748-1651



Mississippi Acteens Convention

"Clay In Need of a Potter's Hand"

Alta Woods Baptist Church, Jackson - July 23-25

Tentative Schedule & Highlights:

Cost: \$24

(includes program fee, Rapids Water Park, and lunch on Saturday) - T-Shirts available for an additional \$6

Weekend Schedule

Friday

7 p.m. Youth Night at
Mississippi Coliseum
10 p.m. - 1 a.m. Rapids Water Park, Brandon

Saturday

8:45 - 9:20 a.m. Registration
9:15 a.m. Pre-Session
9:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. Missions Celebration,
Conferences, Lunch
6:45 p.m. Pre-Session
7:00 - 9:00 Missions Celebration

Sunday

7:45 a.m. Pre-Session
8:00 - 9:30 a.m. Closing Missions Celebration

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS:

Marilyn & Eddie Graves, missionaries to Chile
Kay Bennett, NAMB missionary, Friendship House, New Orleans
Peggy Ray, music and worship leader, Tucker, Ga.
Mississippi Acteens Panel

Missions Celebrations, Missions Maze, Acteen/Missions Conferences,
Crosswalk Ministry Project—every Acteen and advisor needs to bring a
white T-shirt and bottle of fabric paint.

Pre-registration is required. Mail registration form by July 9, 1999, to
WMU, P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205

**NO REGISTRATIONS WILL BE TAKEN BY PHONE,
ALL CANCELLATIONS AND REFUND REQUESTS MUST ARRIVE IN
WRITING BY JULY 9.**

NO REFUNDS WILL BE ISSUED AFTER THIS DATE.

For more information contact:

Robin Keels, GAs/Acteens/Camp Ministries Consultant
1-800-748-1651 or 601-968-3800

REGISTRATION FORM - MAC 1999

Church _____ City _____ Association _____

I am enclosing \$ _____ (\$24 per person) for _____ Acteens and/or Advisor(s).

I am also enclosing \$ _____ (\$6 per person) for T-shirt(s).

Person making reservations _____

Address _____ City/State/Zip _____

Daytime Phone _____

Mail completed form and check to:
WMU/MBCB, P.O. Box 530
Jackson, MS 39205

Name Indicate sponsor with (A)	Address (City, State, Zip)	School Grade	T-shirt size

WMU/Habitat Community Project "Building West Park with love"



COMMUNITY MINISTRY PROJECT

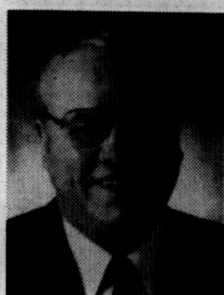
- Sports Camps
- Medical Clinics
- Legal Seminars
- Park Revival
- Door-to-Door Evangelism
- Neighborhood Bible Clubs

RAISING MONEY FOR HOUSES

Mississippi WMU is raising funds to build two Habitat for Humanity houses in Jackson. Each of these houses will cost \$20,000 to build. Therefore, Mississippi WMU needs to raise \$40,000 to fund the building of both homes.

\$10	a floor joist	\$50	an interior door
\$20	a 50 lb. box of nails	\$75	8 sheets of wallboard
\$25	a roof truss	\$100	3 boxes of flooring material
\$40	5 gallons of paint	\$250	50 bundles of roof shingles

For more info, contact Tammy Anderson, WMU, 1-800-748-1651 or 601-292-3323



July Guest Speaker
Roy Edgemon, director of
Discipleship and Family
Ministry, LifeWay Christian
Resources



July Guest Musicians
Gordon and Donna Alford,
minister of music, First
Baptist Church, Vancleave

1999 Growing Churches Conferences

Equipping Church Leaders for the 21st Century

Growing Churches Through Discipleship July 29-31

Seminars on total church growth with an emphasis on
Discipleship and Family Ministry.

Growing Churches Through Bible Study August 6-7

Seminars on total church growth with
an emphasis on Sunday School.

Both Growing Churches conferences at Gulfshore Baptist Assembly include:

Six Study Sessions led by Specialists

representing
Discipleship and Family Ministry,
Sunday School, Men's Ministry, WMU,
Pastoral Ministry, Evangelism,
Church Media Library,
Missions Extension and Stewardship.

Dynamic Worship Services

- Special guest worship leaders for the
Discipleship weekend include Roy Edgemon
and Gordon and Donna Alford
- The Bible Study conference will feature multi-
media and the use of creative worship

Each conference is a presentation of the

Equipping Team-MBCB

TeamKID Clubs for All Children

TeamKID Clubs for Older Preschoolers

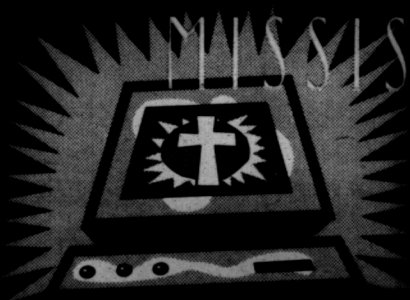
Demonstration Lab School for Younger
Preschoolers

Discipling Bible Study for Youth

Family Time on Friday Afternoons

Fellowship Time on the Pier Friday Evening

For reservation information, contact Frank Simmons, manager, Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, 100 First Street, Pass Christian, MS 39571-3299, Tel: (228) 452-7261, Fax: (228) 452-7263



MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST YOUTH NIGHT '99

"SY2J" (SAY YES TO JESUS) ISAIAH 6:8



Christian Vocal Artist

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FAIRGROUNDS
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Youth Evangelist

Same program —
choose one to attend
July 23, 1999 • 7 p.m.
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1999

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Camp Garaywa, Clinton



**PROFESSIONAL
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August 17-19, 1999
NELL COLLINS, certified church
secretary instructor for LifeWay
Christian Resources, and admin-
istrative assistant, First Baptist
Church, Longview, Tex.



**MINISTRY OFFICE
SKILLSHOPS**
August 17-19, 1999
GLENDA SUGGS, certified church
secretary instructor for LifeWay
Christian Resources, and ministry
assistant, Mt. Vernon Baptist
Church, West Monroe, La.

Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries Department
1-800-748-1651 or 601-968-3800

Pray this day for...

July 2 - July 22, 1999

Prayer Ministry Office • P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone 968-3800, Ext. 3904 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-PRAY

Prayer Makes the Devil Tremble

"The one concern of the Devil is to keep Christians from praying. He fears nothing from prayerless studies, prayerless work, prayerless religion... he laughs at our toil, mocks at our wisdom but trembles when we pray." Samuel Chadwick

Independence Day, Christian Citizenship Sunday (Christian Action Commission Emphasis). Refugio Villa is Messenger of the Word pastoring First Hispanic Baptist Church, Guyton, Okla. Pray for a new mission in Hooker, Okla., that the church has started.

For Habitat for Humanity, Jackson (WMU Emphasis). Pray for the integration of two Bete pastors as members of the Bete Team in Cote D'Ivoire. As missionaries meet with them, pray that they will all be of one accord in prayer and strategy planning.

Women's Recognition Sunday (Christian Action Commission Emphasis). Sean Steven is a church planter apprentice and pastor of Lakeshore Community Church, Huron, Ohio. Pray that leaders will be raised up to take some of the burden off him and his wife.

Pray for the Baptist Building Staff Planning Week and Family Enrichment Conference, Gulfshore Assembly (Discipleship & Family Ministry)

For Royal Ambassador/Challenger Camp, Central Hills Retreat (Brotherhood). For GA Summer Camp, Camp Garaywa (WMU).

For Royal Ambassador/Challenger Camp, Central Hills Retreat (Brotherhood) and for GA Summer Camp, Camp Garaywa (WMU).

Gunmen ambushed a vehicle in northeastern Angola, killing eight civilians and seriously wounding two. This event highlights the dangerous situation in Angola. Pray for the people of Angola and for the missionaries who serve there.

Recently a young atheist appeared at the door of a believer in China. "You won't believe what has happened," he said. "I believe in God!" He shared how he had asked Christ into his life and that he wanted to be baptized. Give thanks to God for this new life in Christ and for many other Chinese people who accept Christ every day.

Two new Christians in the Miao area of Hmong/Miao of East Asia have been found out by the authorities and reprimanded for their belief. This comes at a time when one of them has been wavering in her faith. Pray that they will stand strong and that God will give them the words to answer questions when asked.

Please pray for the growth of Desert Flower Church, a new congregation in Copiapo, Chile. Missionaries Kay Robinson and Ken and Cathy Yinger are working together with three Chileans to establish this congregation.

Pray for a summer student volunteer who is doing first-aid training in several remote areas of Mindanao, Philippines. Pray for her safety and good health as she uses her skills to help the poorest of the poor while also sharing about the Great Physician.

Norman and Debbie Cannada, West Charleston Baptist Church, start churches in the inner city of Charleston, W. Va., where there is a large unchurched population. Pray that God will reveal the hope of Jesus Christ to many people in the inner-city who feel they have no hope.

An invitation for missionaries, in Fulbe/Futa Jalon of Guinea, to teach about Jesus in several villages have been extended. Pray that the team will know how God wants them to take advantage of this door He has opened.

For Music Leadership Conference, Gulfshore Assembly (Church Music). Terrell Berry, Ontario, Calif., is a church planter pastor. He requests that we pray for Orchard Christian Fellowship in Temecula which was recently planted.

For Older Children's Retreat, Gulfshore Assembly (Equipping Team). We all know someone who is away from the Lord - a son or daughter, grandchild, sibling, friend, maybe even a parent. Write their names on a piece of paper and regularly pray for them until they believe or come back to the Lord.

Missionary Gaye Coleman of Togo and Ghana has been approached by several groups to teach Christian marriage. The young people are seeing the vast difference between marriages founded on Christian principles and those that are more traditional. Pray that God will give Gaye wisdom and openness to discuss all the important issues, including the "True Love Waits" materials.

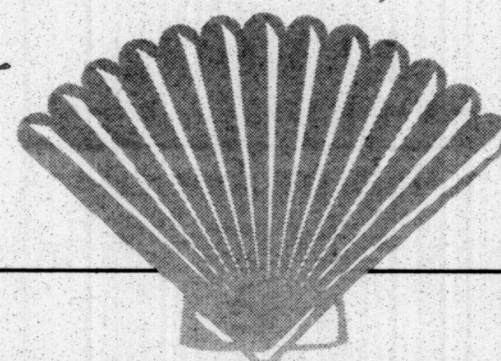
For Lad/Dad Weekend, Central Hills Retreat (Brotherhood). Pray for God's wisdom for the new president of the Cambodia Baptist Convention and the committee leaders as they seek to serve the growing number of believers in over 200 churches.

Steven Lockard, a pastor to the White House, has taken the initiative to mobilize intercessors for the White House. He reports, "We are group of intercessors, physically and spiritually connected to the White House, who believe that God wants to and will change our nation and send an awakening and revival through the prayers of the saints."

Pray for a volunteer in India who shared the gospel with 20 people crowded into a hut with an antenna sticking out the top. One of the listeners reported that the family had watched the 'Jesus' film on television only two hours before he arrived. "What does all this mean?" the listener asked. The volunteer led all 20 family members to faith in Christ.

For I Centrifuge, Gulfshore Baptist Assembly (LifeWay Christian Resources). Pray that the Lord will call out workers to target the one-half million Gujarati-speaking people in the East Africa region who are a part of the 1.2 million who need to hear the gospel.

For II Centrifuge, Gulfshore Baptist Assembly (LifeWay Christian Resources). Pray for wisdom of God as we deal with Y2K problems. Pray that church leaders will become informed and adopt appropriate Y2K strategies for mercy ministries and evangelism in their areas.



Gulfshore Music Leadership Conference July 15-17, 1999

Classes offered in the areas of:

- Worship Leadership/General
- Keyboard
- Handbell
- Preschool/Children's Choirs
- Instrumental
- Youth

Cost: "A" Unit - \$84.10
"C" Unit - \$77.10

CREATIVE WORSHIP EXPERIENCES
MUSIC READING SESSION
WATERMELON CUTTING

Call the Church Music Dept., MBCB, for info.
1-800-748-1651 or 968-3800 local.

1999 Sunday School/Discipleship Training Directors Seminars

For all church and associational Sunday School and Discipleship Training directors and directors of missions. No registration fee.

August 10

North Batesville Baptist Church, Batesville
Panola Association, (662)563-7439



Randy C. Millwood
Assistant Professor of
Christian Education
New Orleans Baptist
Theological Seminary

6:00 p.m. Supper - Call numbers listed for reservation
6:45 "Reaching People Through Sunday School/Discipleship Training" - Randy Millwood
7:45 Break
8:00 Break out conferences
"Transformational Discipleship"
Mark Marshall



Mark Marshall
Leader Development Specialist
in Discipleship
LifeWay Christian Resources
Nashville

9:00 "Sunday School for a New Century"
John Clendinning (Sunday School General
Administration Consultant, MBCB)
David Wills (Sunday School Director, MBCB)
Adjourn

August 12

Temple Baptist Church
Hattiesburg, (601)544-1794

A ministry of the Cooperative Program, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board
Sunday School Department and Discipleship and Family Ministry Department
P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205, 1-800-748-1651 or 968-3800 local.

HOUSE TOPS

NAMES IN THE NEWS



Deacons of South McComb Church, McComb

South McComb Church, McComb, ordained Lamar Patton, Terry McDaniel, Carey "Cap" Lambert, and Wade Brown as new deacons. Pictured (from left) are Ted Bowlin, pastor; Patton; McDaniel; Lambert; and Brown.

Edith Ferrill Day will be observed at First Church, Lucedale, on July 18. She has been organist for 50 years and it will also be her birthday. Special activities will be recognition in the 11 a.m. service, covered dish lunch at noon, and an afternoon service. A scrapbook of cards and letters

will be presented to her that day. Friends and former members may send mail to: Edith Ferrill, c/o First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 117, Lucedale, MS 39452.

Monticello Church, Monticello, has called **Jon Daniels** as pastor effective June 27. A native of Cleveland, Daniels is a graduate of Mississippi College, New Orleans Seminary, and is presently enrolled in the doctor of ministry degree program at

William A. Troutman, 82, former pastor, died on May 22 in the Washington County Infirmary in Chatom, Ala. He moved to Alabama six years ago to be near his daughter. Troutman, a native of Lauderdale County, attended Clarke College, Newton, and New Orleans Seminary. He is survived by his wife Nannie Mae Troutman, one daughter Faye Martin, four grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. His son Bill preceded him in death.

Robert W. Martin, 85, died June 18, with funeral services conducted at First Church, Wisner, La., and burial at Woodlawn Cemetery in Jackson. Churches he served in Mississippi were Silver City;

Phillip; Sidon; Philipston; First, Rosedale; First, Batesville; Crestwood, Jackson; and First, Ripley. Martin is survived by two sons, Charles Martin of Pensacola, Fla., and Bill Martin of Oxford; daughter Loretta Peoples of Wisner, La.; brothers, Cliff Martin of Greenwood, and Hugh Martin of Philadelphia; five grandsons, three granddaughters, and five great grandsons.

Second Church, Kosciusko, ordained Danny Townsend as deacon on May 2. Pictured with Townsend is Ricky McKay, pastor.

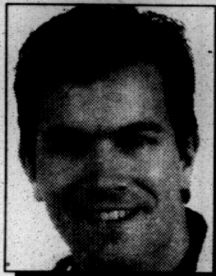


Townsend and McKay

STAFF CHANGES

New Orleans Seminary. His previous positions include junior high school pastor at First Church, Jackson; associate pastor/students, First Church, Brookhaven; and minister of youth and education, Southside Church, Jackson.

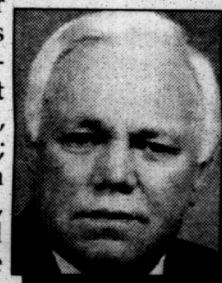
Friendship Church, McComb, has called **Steve Jackson** as minister of music effective May 23. A native of McComb, Jackson received his education at Southwest



Daniels

Community College, Summit, and University of Southern Mississippi.

Cornell Daughtry will retire as pastor of Brooksville Church, Brooksville, on July 18. He and his wife Shelby will be honored with a dinner following the 11 a.m. worship service on that day. His 47-year ministry has included pastor of First Church, Indianola; North Winona Church, Winona; and Wallerville Church, New Albany. He also served as BSU director at Mississippi Delta Community College, Moorhead. Daughtry is a graduate of Mississippi College, attended Southeastern Seminary, and earned a Bachelor of Divinity degree from New Orleans Seminary.



Daughtry

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JUST FOR THE RECORD



Mississippi State University Baptist Student Union leadership coordinators for the 1999-2000 school year (pictured, from left, front row) are Courtney Isbell, Savannah, Tenn., outreach/witness; Heather Dendy, Houston, missions; David Wiley, Jackson, BSU president; Leah Duckworth, Petal, worship/study; (second row) Steven Smith, Keller, Texas, activities; Andy Wayne Chance, Silver Creek, spiritual growth; and Lennie Young, Quitman, communication.

New Life Church, Leaf, shipped 52 boxes of food to Honduras on June 18. Bibles were also put in the boxes. Jerry Rawls is pastor.

New Goodhope Church, Scott Association, recently honored Fred Beatty (right) for 55 years of service as deacon. Curtis Roland, pastor, presented the plaque.



Roland and Beatty

Wheeler Grove Church, Corinth, will have a special 4th of July services beginning at 10:30 a.m. The Heismen will be singing and there will be a special presentation, with recognition of veterans. Lunch will be served.

Mont Rose Church, Quitman, will have a retirement celebration for Leland Goodman on July 4 at 3 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Goodman was licensed to the ministry on Sept. 27, 1953. He has served as pastor of Mont Rose Church for 30 years. For more information, call (601) 776-6754.

Baptist Health Systems will hold its second annual Health Quest, a family-oriented health and wellness fair, on Aug. 7. This free event will be held from 9 a.m.-noon. Services include free child school immunizations; Bernard's birthday party; second annual reunion of children from Baptist's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit; screenings for cholesterol, blood pressure, glucose, and fitness; sports corner; and "pack the van" to highlight proper child safety-seat usage. To register, or for more information, call the Baptist Health Line at (601) 948-6262.



Neshoba Church, Union, held ground breaking for an education building. Taking part in the ceremony were Johnny Collins, pastor; Mike Wells, Allen Muse, Lavern Green, Ray Boswell, Gene Rice, deacons; Vicky Keene, Anne Vance, Tom Johnson (chairman), and Wayne and Annette Welch, new building committee. Not pictured are Terrell Winstead and Gary Matthews, deacon.

Sandy Hook Church, Marion Association, recently held a ground breaking ceremony to begin construction of its new sanctuary. Completion date is expected to be sometime in the year 2000. It will provide space for administrative offices, classrooms, nurseries, choir room, and worship services. The new facility will be located next to the Family Life Center, which was completed less than two years ago. Pictured (from left) are Tommy King, pastor; Archie Rawls,

minister of music and building committee chairman; James Earl Stringer, Bobby Morris, Johnny McKenzie, and Richard Price, deacons.



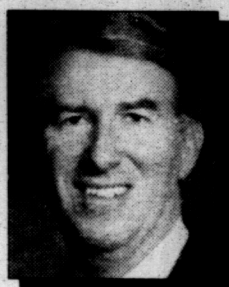
Ground breaking at Sandy Hook Church, Marion Association

NAMES IN THE NEWS



Berry, Rossett, and Smith

Randall O'Brien, acting chair of Baylor University's Department of Religion and the son of Donald and Irene O'Brien of McComb, has been named executive assistant to President Robert B. Sloan Jr. He will begin transitioning to his new responsibilities immediately. O'Brien earned a bachelor degree from Mississippi College and master's in sacred theology from Yale Divinity School. He also holds master of divinity and doctor of theology degrees from New Orleans Seminary.



O'Brien

VBS dates

Mount Zion, Taylorsville: July 5-9; 6-8 p.m.; Debbie Shelby, VBS director; Keith Thompson, pastor; for more information, call (601) 785-9968.

Leflore, Holcomb: July 12-16; 7-8:30 p.m.

Kreole Avenue Church, Moss Point: July 12-16; 6-8:30 p.m.; four years-6th grade; July 18, family night, 6:30 p.m.

Ruth Church, Lincoln Association, licensed Tommy Rossett to the gospel ministry on May 30. Rossett is available for service and may be contacted at (601) 833-0489. Pictured are Scott Berry, pastor; Rossett; and Talmadge Smith, director of missions.

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EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Renewed by confident hope

2 Cor. 4:16-5:10

By Ted Dukes

Huldreich Zwingli, one of the great reformers of the 16th century, when he fell on the battlefield of Kappel in 1531 while serving as a chaplain in the Swiss army said: "What does it matter? They can kill the body but not the soul."

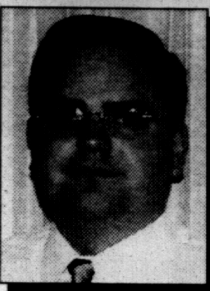
Until a person is prepared to die, they are not truly prepared to live. Because the Apostle Paul knew that the great divider, death, was forever defeated through Jesus Christ, he was prepared to die and to live.

One of the great heresies of the early church was aesthetic gnosticism, a thinking that spiritual purity could be attained by the elevation of the soul and

the degradation of the physical body. These were people who would starve themselves, deprive their bodies, go without bathing in order to demonstrate their neglect of the physical.

Paul is not suggesting that the body is not important. He understood that our bodies are the temple of God and that we must care for them.

Nevertheless, the tide of time's passage causes the natural deterioration of the physical and ultimately it will perish, so Paul reminds the Christians of Corinth that while the outward person is perishing the inward person is experiencing daily spiritual renewal.



Dukes

He could, therefore, say that which would sound utterly nonsensical to an unbeliever — our trials are working for us, not against us, and that we can fix our eyes on something greater and more permanent than this world (4:16-18).

Scripture often refers to the body as a temporary dwelling place (Job 4:19). The expression, "the Word became flesh and dwelt among us," is literally, "he tabernacled among us." That is, he wore a tent-like ours. As a tent maker, Paul would have readily identified with that concept.

In 1 Corinthians 15:40, Paul prioritizes the spiritual body over the physical. We expect to be clothed in a new body when we leave this mortal one, therefore we shall not be found naked, or bodiless (5:3).

Paul knew what it was like to be burdened and looked for-

ward to his deliverance (Rom. 7:24) when his physical body would be clothed over with immortality (5:4). God has made us for this very thing and given us the Spirit as a guarantee (5:5; Eph. 1:14; 4:30).

Paul had a confidence that the people of God can be found in one of two places: heaven or earth (Eph. 3:15). He held no belief in an intermediate dwelling place of the soul. Believers on earth are at home in the body, while believers who have died are absent from the body and present with the Lord.

This conviction gave Paul boldness in the face of persecution and danger. He walked by faith and not by sight (5:7). Heaven was not just a destination, but a motivation, so Paul made it his goal to please the Lord regardless of where he was. He would later assure the Christians at Philippi that God was doing a great work in bringing him to Rome. (Phil. 1:12-14).

We will all stand before the throne of God one day, Paul says, so we had better be prepared, lest we be ashamed (5:10; Rom. 14:8-10; 1 John 2:28).

While Scripture assures us that believers will not be among those who must stand before God and be judged for our sin, as the wicked will be before the Great White Throne (Rev. 20:11-15), we will have to give an account of our works and service for the Lord.

Paul uses the word for a platform in Greek towns where orations were made or decisions handed down by rulers (Matt. 27:19; Acts 12:21; 18:12). It was also the place where awards were given out to the winners in the Olympic games.

This will be a moment of revelation (1 Cor. 3:13) when we will stand in confidence or shame. Personally, I think it will be a mixture of both for most of us.

Dukes is pastor of First Church, Crystal Springs.

FAMILY BIBLE SERIES

Blazing a path

Genesis 11:31-12:9

By Grant Arinder

I love the outdoors and especially big, beautiful trees. As a matter of fact, I happened to find the largest tree in the state of Mississippi, a Bald Cypress, that was once owned by Mark Simmons, a good Baptist in Humphreys County. The tree is 47 feet in diameter.

I once heard of a small community that was graced by one of these beautiful, enormous trees, a Southern Red Oak. It was a city landmark and the whole community took pride in its natural beauty.

When a tornado came through, the tree began to bend in the wind. The weight of the

enormous tree was too much for the roots to support and, sadly, it fell to the ground.

The city called in the county forester to determine how old it was. However, it was not the age of the tree that was so intriguing, but the final line of the forester's report. He stated, "It was growing until it died."

Perhaps this line best sums up the life of Abraham. Even in their old age, he and Sarah were accepting new challenges from God.

The purpose (12:1). Students of the Bible (professional and lay) all agree that Genesis 12 is one of the most important chapters in Scripture. My missions professor



Arinder

at Southwestern Seminary taught me that God's mission work can be traced to the call of Abram and his mission to be a blessing to all nations.

One Old Testament scholar's introduction of this passage is almost poetic. "The one who calls the worlds into being now makes a second call. The call is addressed to aged Abram and to barren Sarah. The purpose of the call is to fashion an alternative community in a creation gone awry, to embody in human history the power of the blessing. It is the hope of God that in this new family all human history can be brought to the unity and harmony intended by the one who calls."

The plan (12:1). I have great admiration for our foreign missionaries who serve around the world. These people have left the comforts of their country and

culture behind. Beyond that they have committed to learn the language and customs of those with whom they will work.

Leaving your country is one thing, but leaving your people is quite another. I am a Southerner and the people in the South are "my people." You can take a Southerner out of the South, but you can't take the South out of a Southerner. Abram was asked to leave his country and his people.

In ascending order Abram was asked to leave that which was most precious to him. The final test of faith for Abram was the reality that his mission would require that he leave his own household. Because of his faithfulness, Abram would be called the father of the faithful (cf. Heb. 11).

The promise (12:2). As New Testament Christians, our hearts resonate so easily with this text. There is so much foreshadowing of the Gospel with-

in it. The commission of Abram reminds us of the New Testament commission the church received from Jesus. In each we read that God's people were instructed to bless the nations, all people groups.

Not only were they to bless, but God also promises Abram that he and his family would be blessed. Once again, the passage reminds us of another passage from Jesus' lips. "And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or fields for my sake will receive a hundred times as much and will inherit eternal life."

The passage ends so appropriately. May the words of v. 4 instruct us, as we continue to accept the challenges of God. "So Abram left, as the Lord had told him." Who knows what challenges God may still have in store for you.

Arinder is pastor of First Church, Belzoni.

LIFE AND WORK

What's right with the church?

Matthew 16:17-19; 1 Peter 2:4-10

By Tony Martin

What's right with the church?

That's a provocative question. There's no doubt that the church has an image problem in today's society. Many folks are openly antagonistic toward it, which should be encouraging; at least we're perceived by those people as standing for something.

Others are simply indifferent, viewing the church as irrelevant. They see it has no impact on their lives.

Others are open to God and to spiritual things, but are not open to the organized church.

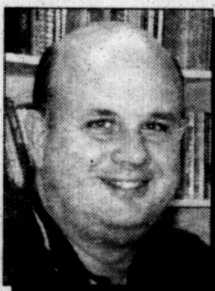
Still others admire and respect Jesus, but church has left them cold.

We want to examine what's right with the church, and to develop confidence in it because we have ultimate confidence in Christ, the church's founder and Lord.

His, not ours (Matt. 16:17-19). After Peter's confession of Jesus as Christ, Jesus affirms these words. He knew that Peter was ready for deeper truths. Some fresh realities come from this passage.

Jesus told Peter, "on this rock I will build my church." The disciples, acquainted as they were with Old Testament scripture, knew that the rock was a symbol of God. Jesus himself is the rock on which the church is built.

The word translated



Martin

"church" is ekklesia, and this is the first time it occurs in scripture. The English word ecclesiastical, which refers to things pertaining to the church, comes from this word. It calls to mind a called out group, a people chosen for a specific task.

When Jesus speaks of the "keys of the kingdom," he isn't speaking of heaven. Keys are used to open doors, and Peter was given the honor of opening the door of salvation to others. The other apostles had this authority, as do all believers.

Believers should understand that the church is indestructible. It's God's church, not ours. The church has a special authority, and believers should exercise that authority by proclaiming Christ.

Living, not dead (1 Pet. 2:4-5). There is only one means to heaven, and that is through Jesus Christ. There is only one

spiritual building, the church. Peter describes Jesus as a "living stone," because of his resurrection. He's called a chosen stone, because he was chosen by God but rejected by men. He's precious, because he's God's son.

We understand that we are living stones, parts of his building — the church. We are part of a holy and royal priesthood — our lives should be lived as though we were priests in a temple. The church is living because it is built of people who have been brought to life by the spirit of Christ.

Confident, not ashamed (1 Pet. 2:6-8). Peter quoted Isaiah 28:16 and Psalm 118:22 and pointed out that Jesus, though chosen by God, was rejected by men. He just was not the kind of Messiah the Jews were expecting. The real reason the Jews stumbled was because they refused to submit to his teaching.

Jesus is precious to us today

because of his supernatural ability to fit us all together into one beautiful spiritual building. We can be confident in him simply because of who he is.

Somebodies, not nobodies (1 Pet. 2:9-10). In contrast to Israel, we are today God's chosen and holy nation. That makes us somebodies!

We are a chosen people, which affirms the mercy and grace of God. We are a holy nation, set apart to belong solely to God. We're a people belonging to God. Before we were saved, we belonged to Satan. Now we have trusted in Jesus for salvation, and because of that we are part of God's people.

All of this is due to God's amazing grace. If it weren't for his mercy, we would still be in bondage. As it is, we are part of a whole kingdom, responsible for revealing God to a lost world.

Martin is minister of education at First Church, McComb.

LIFE AND WORK

What does the church do?

Acts 11:19-30; 13:1-3

By Tony Martin

Have you ever longed to be involved in some great movement that makes a genuine difference in the world?

What goes on in your local church can and should make a difference in the world. Unfortunately, churches are full of people who have little idea of what being involved in the Kingdom of God means. They just aren't sure what they should be doing as a church.

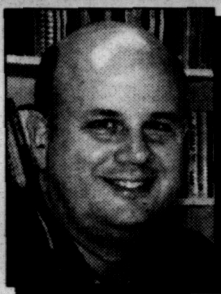
How can we distinguish what is important from what is unimportant, and what is of eternal significance? Honestly, I've seen people go purple with rage if the temperature was wrong in the sanctuary, but yawn with indifference when confronted with

the depravity of the community around them. How can the local church make a positive difference in its community?

Win the lost (Acts 11:19-21). What happens to a local church when the neighborhood changes, and "they" start outnumbering "us"? This is part of the issue facing the people in this chapter of Acts.

After the stoning of Stephen and the scattering of the believers, many ended up all along the Mediterranean coast and crossed over to Cyprus.

At first these Hebrew Christians witnessed only to the Jews. Then many began to testify about Jesus to the Gentiles as well. As a result,



Martin

many lost people believed and were saved.

Because of their willingness to cross those lines between Jew and Gentile, the activity of these new believers brought results. If we witness faithfully, we can experience and expect similar results. We are to make winning the lost a priority in our churches.

Nurture the saved (Acts 11:22-26). The Jerusalem church put together an investigating committee of sorts, headed by Barnabas.

We first met Barnabas in Acts 4:36-37; where he was known by his nickname, "Son of Encouragement." He did a great job of encouraging, nurturing, and teaching the Gentile converts. As the Holy Spirit led him, he tracked down Saul.

We, of course, know Saul as Paul, the premier apostle to the Gentiles. Together, Saul and Barnabas became part of a leadership team that ministered to

the believers there in Antioch. What a great example to us! These two men served that local church and made it a place of nurture and encouragement. It's our local churches that are best equipped to help believers grow in the faith.

Help other churches (Acts 11:27-30). Antioch was able to host a group of prophets from Jerusalem. Agabus, a prophet, was filled with the Spirit and told the believers in Antioch that there would be a great famine. So the disciples provided help to the church in Judea. It's interesting to note that this is a Gentile church sending funds to Jewish brethren.

I often wonder what would happen if churches consistently looked beyond their own needs to see how they could help the needs of other churches. I know of a small mission church in a college town with a burden for students, but without the resources and facilities to reach out effectively.

Last year they identified the church in town they felt was doing the best job in reaching college students and elected to send that church a couple of hundred dollars a month to aid them in their ministry to students. Amazing — and the other church wasn't even Southern Baptist.

Change the world (Acts 13:1-3). Here is a classic biblical example of a church setting about two men for a specific work. God chose Barnabas and Saul for missionary work, and the two struck out on a missionary trip that ultimately changed the world.

Is that possible today? I'd hope so. We should all strive to lead our churches to become more mission minded. Imagine the part your church could play in reaching the world with the gospel, and, by God's grace, even involving you in personal ways.

Martin is minister of education at First Church, McComb.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Ministry of reconciliation

2 Cor. 5:11-6:2

By Ted Dukes

Two city boys decided to move to the country and farm. They knew they would need a mule, so they approached a local and offered to buy his mule. The farmer, sensing their gullibility, sold them a honeydew melon saying it was a mule egg.

On the road their mule egg rolled out of the back of their truck and burst on the ground. When they looked back they saw the open melon and a long-eared rabbit sniffing it. "Our mule egg has hatched!" said one, and off they ran chasing the rabbit.

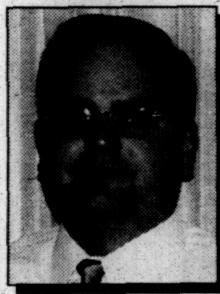
Some time later they collapsed in exhaustion on a hill-

top. "Well, we lost our mule," said one. "Yes," replied the other, "But I don't think I wanted to plow that fast anyway."

How committed are you? Paul would never think of quitting, even though he had enemies in the church who accused him left and right.

I suppose every pastor has had those members in every church who doubted his call, questioned his leadership, and considered it their duty to enlighten everyone else to the pastor's insufficiencies.

Paul was no different. He had a deep human need for appreciation, and when you read Corinthians you cannot



Dukes

help but conclude that Paul did not feel appreciated. So Paul reminds the church repeatedly in the Corinthian letters of the ministry God had given him in Corinth.

The Apostle Paul prophetically calls us to accountability by picturing that future moment when we will appear before the judgment seat of Christ (v.10). It is with that scene in mind that he sets forth yet another reason for his devotion to the ministry of reconciliation; "the terror of the Lord" (5:11).

While the idea of the dread of God is difficult to harmonize with the message of the Gospel, a holy fear mingled with love, and sincere desire to please is enough to motivate any Christian.

Paul's opponents in the church thought only of outward appearances. It was his hope that the Christians at

Corinth would look at his heart, realize the genuineness of his ministry, and follow his leadership.

In so doing they would have occasion to minister in the same way to others that Paul had ministered to them. They could glory on his behalf. It's the same kind of reciprocal relationship that he referenced in 2 Cor. 1:4.

Paul had to learn to ignore the criticisms of men (5:13). He looked back over his life and realized his days of insanity were before he met Jesus (Acts 26:11), while his critics said he was crazy for becoming a Christian (Acts 26:24).

There are always those who make it their job to cool off the zealot. Paul ignored them and said, "If I am insane it is for your good and the glory of God!" After all, people said Jesus was mad (Mark 3:21), and that put Paul in pretty good company.

We live, Paul says, not unto

ourselves, but unto Christ because he died for us (1 John 4:9), reconciling all our wrongs (5:18-19), and transforming us from his enemies (Rom. 5:10; 11:28) to his ambassadors (5:20; Eph. 6:20).

This ministry of reconciliation manifests itself in the life of an individual by transforming character and spirit to resemble that of Christ. To be "in Christ" is to adopt his principles, his ideas, his agenda. The person in Christ has a new spiritual history and a new standing in the eyes of God.

Paul concludes his appeal in the first two verses of chapter six, issuing an invitation to those who were not saved. He quoted Isaiah 49:8 as his appeal to accept the grace of God. Because of what God in Christ did on the cross (5:18-19), today is the "day of salvation." Isaiah writes, "Seek ye the Lord while he may be found" (Is. 55:6).

Dukes is pastor of First Church, Crystal Springs.

FAMILY BIBLE SERIES

Fulfilling a promise

Genesis 15:1-6; 17:17-21; 21:1-2

By Grant Arinder

After this the word of the Lord came to Abram (15:1).

I read the other day in the alumni magazine of Southwestern Seminary that Old Testament professor, Dan Kent, is retiring. Dr. Kent is a great Hebrew and Old Testament professor and I was privileged to learn much from him.

One thing that I recall from his many lessons was a simple principle of biblical interpretation. Dr. Kent suggested that the most important factor was the context of the passage. As he put it, "Context is king when it comes to interpreting a passage."

Dr. Kent's advice is most

appropriate for an understanding of Genesis 15:1-6. The text begins with the words "after this" or "after these things." The obvious question is, "What things?"

The answer is found in the events of chapter 14. In this chapter we read that Lot, Abram's nephew, had been taken captive when four allied kings captured Sodom and deported its riches and residents, including Lot.

Word eventually reached Abram, who went in pursuit of his nephew. Abram caught and defeated these opposing kings and returned the residents and riches to the king of Sodom. It



Arinder

was "after these things" that the events in chapter 15 occurred.

We would think that Abram would be ecstatic. He had been victorious in war. He had received a heroes welcome from the king of Sodom. He had been promised the riches of Sodom as a reward and he had rescued his kinsman, Lot.

Abram was a hero, yet we read that his was a shallow victory. Why? Because Abram did not want to be a hero, nor did he want the riches of Sodom. What he wanted was to be a father and to have an heir. With this context in mind the words of 15:1 became amazingly clear.

An unfulfilled promise (15:1-2). Please notice in your Bible that there is a variant reading to the words of God to Abram in 15:1. The KJV and NIV state, "God is Abram's shield,

his very great reward." The RSV and New Century Bible, among others, read that God will give Abram a "very great reward."

The context seems to prefer the latter, because Abram immediately replies, "What can you give me since I remain childless...." Basically, Abram tells God that nothing he gives Abram will satisfy him unless he has a son, an heir.

Renewed promise (15:4-6). In these verses God renews the initial covenant that he had made with Abram, yet in a more specific way, God promises to bless Abram with a son. Beyond that, he promises Abram that he will be father of a great nation of people that are beyond counting.

Abram did not want the material wealth of the kings of Sodom, nor did he want material blessings from God. What he wanted was a son and now God had promised him one.

Words of faith (15:6). "Abram believed the Lord." Throughout Scripture there are examples of the miracles of God. A study of God's miracles reveals an interesting fact. God is looking for people to join him in making the miraculous happen. God is able, but we must also be willing.

Abram was willing. His faithful response reminds us of so many others throughout Scripture. When God told Mary that the Holy Spirit would come upon her and that she would give birth to a son, she replied, "May it be to me as you have said."

Some people say, "Things have to be seen before they are believed." That's OK for science and the lab, but not for faith. Others reply, "Some things have to be believed to be seen." God is able, if we are willing.

Arinder is pastor of First Church, Belzoni.

THE VILLAGE VIEW



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Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of **The Village View** is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful, and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

MAY 1-31, 1999 MEMORIALS

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Mrs. Myrtle Kellebrew
Mrs. Frances Creel
Mrs. Mary Jo Tyner
Ms. Kay Roseberry
Roy Kelly
Mr. & Mrs. John F. Bratton



Soldiers from Battery C 1st Battalion 14th Marines in Jackson, Mississippi, brought camping equipment for the children of the Reedy Acres campus in Water Valley to enjoy. The soldiers are (from left) Ssgt. Gordon Broussard, LCPI Alvin King, Major John Armstrong, Ssgt. Eric Turpean, and PFC Fredrick Traylor.

Thomas E. Kimes
Daisy Ferguson
Chester King
Graeber Brothers, Inc.
Mrs. Mabel King
Mr. & Mrs. Charles R. Power
John and Dawn Klopfenstien
Country Creek Ministry
Charlie Mae Knight
Adult I SSC, St. Blvd. BC
Mrs. Beverly Lachina
Mrs. Helen G. Cade
Emma Lacy
Graeber Brothers, Inc.
Mrs. Era Layton
Ladies Adult SSC, Shady Grove BC
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Ms. Elzene P. Bell
Ms. Doris S. Brock
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Glenn & Laverne Stewart
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Ruth Miles
Jean Stepp
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Morgan Chapel Baptist Church
Mrs. Mildred Lewis
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Mr. & Mrs. Randy McKee
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Billy Ray McKenzie
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Eva Allie McNece
T.E.L. SSC, Springfield BC
Sanford "Doc" McNemar
Peach Creek Baptist Church
Mrs. Irene E. Merrell
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Mr. & Mrs. Ralph McNease
Mrs. Jean Weathersby Misterfeldt
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Sara Porch
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Mrs. June Sharp
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Arlene Smith
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Mr. & Mrs. G. G. Morgan
Beatrice Carter Smith
Galilee Baptist Church



Summer is here and the pool is open. Ashley and other India Nunnery residents are trying to keep cool on these hot summer days.

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Mrs. Pam May
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Mrs. Jane Smith
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Mrs. Joyce E. White
Velma Taylor
Graeber Brothers, Inc.
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Mr. & Mrs. Donald C. Long & Family



Discovery Toys along with Little Caesar's donated toys to BCV residents. These fun and educational toys are being used by children on four BCV campuses.

Stay in culture war, Colson urges pastors

ATLANTA (BP) — "Voices are being raised in our culture that say, 'Back away from the culture war. We've lost it. Just build our separate institutions. Have nothing any more to do with the culture,'" Charles Colson observed.

"This is no time to turn away from the culture around us," countered the founder of Prison Fellowship in addressing the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference June 14 in Atlanta.

"Those of you on the front line equipping the troops for the great renaissance, the great renewal of the Christian faith that I believe is coming — preach boldly, but always humbled by the awe that a holy God has chosen you to speak for him and to represent him to a needy world," Colson counseled.

Twenty-five years ago, Colson was sentenced to prison for his role in the Watergate scandal. He remembered thinking that his chances for doing anything of significance in the future were over.

"Little could I have imagined 25 years ago this week that God would have chosen to use my life for 15 books, for radio programs that are now on a thousand stations in America, for 50,000 volunteers, for a ministry that has spread across the country, where everywhere I go people are telling me how God has used me to change their lives," Colson said.

"Don't quit. Don't turn away," he said, reiterating his call to stay engaged in the culture war.

It would be "absolutely the wrong time for us to say, 'We give up on the culture around us,' because the signs are turning our way," Colson said.

"The culture is shifting, and it is shifting our way. And this is going to be a great period of Christian renewal in the new millennium, I am absolutely convinced, [because] modern men and women have run out of options," he said.

Signs the culture is turning

- lowest national crime rate since 1973
- welfare roles cut in half since 1981
- teen pregnancies down
- number of sexually active teens declined for the third straight year.
- abortions down 15 percent since 1990

Source: Chuck Colson

The 1960s spawned a "do-your-own-thing" generation that spanned three decades, he said, adding some people have awakened in the 1990s to realize, "When everybody does his own thing, the result is moral nihilism."

"And that's the opportunity for us as the church to step into that vacuum" and say to the "secular world that is hungry and desperate, 'Look, there is a better way to order our lives.'"

"I believe as we go into the new millennium that the church has an opportunity that it has not had in hundreds of years" — to show the world that Nihilism leads to death while God gives life, Colson said.

"Look at all the '-isms' of the 20th century. Look at Marxism ... national socialism ... existentialism ... postmodernism. All of the utopian promises of the 20th century, all of the promises that man could achieve his final glory here on earth through our utopian schemes, every single one is lying on the ash heap of history because every one has proven bankrupt," Colson said.

As people look around for meaning in life they will realize "the only way you can make sense out of life is to turn to God's revelation on how he teaches us to live."

Setting up for the big meeting



Jerry Sager (right), manager of the LifeWay Christian Resources store (formerly Baptist Book Store) in Jackson, directs Joel Richardson of Jacksonville, Fla., on June 15 while setting up the LifeWay book store for the 1999 Southern Baptist Convention in the Georgia Dome in Atlanta. Sager was selected by LifeWay headquarters in Nashville to help manage this year's convention store, and Richardson is the son of the manager of LifeWay's Jacksonville store. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

SBC business sometimes a challenge to report

ATLANTA — If you're a reporter for a daily newspaper, wading through the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) and then conveying that experience to non-Baptist readers in a clear manner can be a challenge of biblical proportions.

Every year, secular papers from around America send reporters to the SBC annual meeting. Some of these reporters are novices who have no background information about Southern Baptists, while others are veteran religion writers who are more knowledgeable about Baptist protocol and beliefs.

"It's a challenge to convey accurately to the readership" where Southern Baptists are coming from, said Cary McMullen, religion writer for New York Times-owned newspapers.

McMullen has covered the SBC for three years. He attended divinity school and was a Presbyterian pastor.

He also grew up as a Southern Baptist.

Covering the convention is still a challenge, he said, noting it is difficult to keep up with everything and everyone. Reporters may spend hours tracking down one person for one quote, said Patricia Rice, religion reporter for the St. Louis (Mo.) Post-Dispatch.

"People don't always know

what is going on," she explained. "They are more informed about their pet issues and committees." To make the quotes and convention actions understandable to her secular audience, Rice said, she must explain basic things about

Baptists in her stories.

Southern Baptists' commitment to their faith and moral convictions is admirable, said Bill Singleton, religion reporter for the Birmingham (Ala.) Post-Herald — but that commitment is sometimes misunderstood by

the public, he added.

For example, Baptist actions such as committing to evangelize the Jews, condemning homosexuality, affirming of a wife's submitting to her husband can be shocking to the culture at large, he noted.

Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx
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EKL WSTGT EKTHSASL EKL
TEZL GKNM RZD, YSN
NRSS JSRZKL DS, TENEK:
PMA ZN ZT HAZNSK,
NRMG TREVN HMATRZU
NRS VMAL NRO YML, EKL
RZD MKVO TREVN NRMG
TSACS.

VGBS PMGA: SZYRN

Clue: J = B

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Mark Sixteen: Sixteen.



Ron McQuay, Ph.D.
Minister of Counseling
First Church, Jackson

LifeAnswers

When I was 17 years old, I had a jealous and controlling boyfriend. I was so scared of him that what he wanted, he got. After I became pregnant, my parents made me have an abortion and I have struggled with that decision for nine years. I know I am a Christian, but I can still see my baby's heart beating on that ultrasound screen and I need to know — has Jesus really forgiven me for this sin? I am tortured by what I did. Please print my letter for teenagers today. Tell them if someone is abusing them, to get help before it's too late and they suffer a lifetime of hurt from the memories.

Thank you so much for

your letter. What a testimony you have! Young people and parents should heed your story. You received eternal salvation through your profession of faith in Jesus Christ as the Son of God, but you have discovered that you still have to live with the consequences of your sin. Our throw-away society lives by the motto, "Out of sight, out of mind." Nothing could be further than the truth when it comes to issues like abortion. Your heartache matches every single story I have heard of young people having abortions, but that's the rest of the story our society refuses to hear. Satan

used sin to keep you in a bad relationship, and now he would like to use guilt to keep you from moving forward with your life. Study 1 John 1:9 and Psalm 103:12. You were abused, and that was wrong. No one of us should be treated as anything less than God's crown of creation. That you have survived this ordeal and now live as a Christian is testimony of the Heavenly Father's grace and glory through Jesus Christ. Live your life as the forgiven child of God that you are, and use your hurt as a stepping stone to the peace and love that can be experienced only through him.

Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name is not required. Remember: in time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.